those Railway employees who retired with Provident Fund facilities;

(b) whether ex-gratia pension is also payable to the widows of the said employees;

(c) if so, whether such passes are also proposed to be issued to such widows; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Post-retirement Complimentary Passes are granted to eligible retired Railway employees and there is no distinction between those who retire under the Pension Scheme or the Contributory Provident Fund Scheme.

(b) Ex-gratia payment at the rate of Rs. 150/- p.m., together with dearness relief thereon, is admissible with effect from 1-1-1986 to widows of Railway employees who retired or died before 1-1-1986 while being governed under the Contributory Provident Fund Scheme.

(c) and (d) As per the extent Scheme, only widows of Railway employees who were/are in service on or after 12-3-1987 and expire after that date are eligible for Complimentary Passes. Hence, widows of those Railway employees who ceased to be in service prior to 12-3-1987 are not eligible for Complimentary Passes. In this scheme also there is no distinction between widows of Pension retirees and the retirees under the Contributory Provident Fund Scheme.

Parity between service conditions of Government employees and Railway Personnel

3027. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a parity between the service conditions of government employees and the railway personnel and whether pensionary benefits in the form of ex-gratia payment is available to them also;

(b) whether the serving as well as retired railway personnel enjoy the facility of free railway passes and whether this facility was available to them even at the time when on retirement they were entitled to the provident fund benefits only and not to any pensionary benefits;

(c) whether Government propose to extend free railway passes to the serving and the retired employees of the other Government Departments also similar to those of railway personnel; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) As far as pay scales and certain allowances like H.R.A./C.C.A. are concerned, there is certain commonality between Central Government employees and railway employees. As regards other issues Railway Ministry generally adopts the instructions of nodal Ministries like Finance/Department of Personnel and Training/Ministry of Health etc.

Pensionary benefit in the form of ex-gratia payment to Contributory Provident Fund retirees has neither been sanctioned for Government Employees nor for Railway employees.

(b) Serving Railway employees are granted Privilege Passes as per their entitlement and the eligible retired Railway employees are granted Post-retirement Complimentary Passes, as per the prescribed scale.

This is not linked to retirement of such employees under Pension or Contributory Provident Fund Scheme, as the case may be.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Other Government employees are governed by the Leave Travel Concession Scheme applicable to them.